

REMARKS

Claims 4-5 and 8-18 are presently pending. Claim 11 has been allowed. The Office Action indicates that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8-9, 12, and 14-17 have been amended. Claims 4-5, 10, and 13 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 8-9, 11-12, and 14-18 remain pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 5, 8-10, 12-13, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,828,716 to McEwen et al. ("McEwan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,508,653 to Coleman ("Coleman") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,074,883 to Kelly et al. ("Kelly") in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,354,483 to Furse ("Furse").

To expedite prosecution of this application, claims 4-5 have been cancelled. Claims 8, 12, and 17 have been amended to depend on allowed claim 11. Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 14. As suggested by the Office Action, claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 5, from which it depended. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 14 and is, thus, also believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any other fee that may be required (except for payment of the issue fee) to Nixon Peabody, LLP, Deposit Account No. 50-4181, Order No. 247168-000158USD1. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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